

Chairman Powell,

Thank you for taking the time to request input from citizens affected by your work.

Here are my thoughts:

I'm extremely concerned with the trend towards large media conglomerates taking control not only over the content of the media, but also the means of distribution of the media. In my opinion, this is a drastic issue which needs to be addressed. Freedom of the press should never have had anything to do with big business, and my concern is that the large corporations which now control the media are also intending to impact public opinion and as a result, government legislation. I don't believe the forefathers of our country ever intended for the press to be driven by greed and slanted news-reporting intended to influence the audience.

I was trained formally as a journalist and have worked in public relations and news editing for years. I would hope that your commission will work to implement a system in which objective, unbiased news reporting and fairness in advertising sales for equality in the media are back in place in America. Before the American media loses ALL of its remaining credibility (believe me, it is hanging by threads now), please do something to ensure all is not lost.

Allowing large conglomerates to own the content and the means of distribution would further enable those with specific, subjective agendas to attempt to control the American people, which is not what a democracy is based upon. Let's get the focus back on democracy and the main pillars on which it was built.

Thank you,

Laurie Falconer